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MEDICAL CENTER  
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

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Hydro →

4月21日

Beppu

Dear Jim -

I was at Hiroshima, for the first time, just a couple of days ago and of course visited the ABCC. Frankly I was disappointed at the level of existing work and plans for the future in human genetics, though perhaps I did not see enough, and you or Matsumura may set me right. I don't have in mind the radiation effects themselves, so much as the investment in a large scale health census, and this is not being well planned for genetic analysis. E.G., there are no kindred data on the 100,000 life span samples; when I brought this up, "yes, it is rather embarrassing when our social workers call twice in a month on the same family." And the follow up on the congenital anomalies, e.g. myelomeres is appalling.

This last point, especially, ought to be rectified. Your 1956 report pointed out how fishy the apparent numbers were, and this really ought to be rectified. There is an important issue whether radiation of the ovary predisposes to non-disjunction, and during the next several years, ♀♀ whose ova were just forming in 1945 will be having their first children. So some plans should be made for much more careful cytogenetic work than is now suggested.

Any thoughts?

Joshua.

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